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PAPERS OF THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL  
STUDIES AT ATHENS.

REPORT ON EXCAVATIONS BETWEEN SCHENO-  
CHORI AND KOUTZOPODI, ARGOLIS, IN 1893.

Last year, while exploring the site of the battlefield of the ancient Oenoë, I noticed a hillock or large mound in the fields to the right of the road leading from Schenochori (probably Oenoë) to the village of Koutzopodi, about halfway between the two. It seemed to me probable, from the configuration of the surrounding country as well as the nature of the mound, that this elevation covered ancient ruins ; and I decided to carry on trial excavations at the earliest opportunity which should present itself. Accordingly on April 6 of this year I rode over to the site from our camp at the Heræum and made all preliminary arrangements to begin work. It was not until April 20 that I was able to take workmen with me to this site near Koutzopodi. I at once set the men to work, leaving one of our most trusted workmen and an Epistates of the Greek government in charge. Work was continued here for four days, the overseers reporting to me in the evening at the Heræum.

When Mr. Paton joined us at the Heræum on April 23, I thought it desirable that a member of the school should be in charge of this work and should remain upon the spot during the continuance of the trial. Accordingly Mr. Paton accompanied me to Koutzopodi on April 24, and having decided the general direction of the work, I left him in charge. I here give his general report together with a plan.

C. W.

When I took charge of the work near Koutzopodi the excavations had been confined to the south and west sides of the mound. The southwest corner (*F A B C D*) had been laid bare, as well as the long southern wall *C M*. At the southwest corner the walls (*C D* and *C c*) had been excavated to the

bottom, a depth of 2.28 m., and this had also been done between *i* and *k*. The cistern at *o* had been cleared out, and a beginning had been made at clearing the eastern wall (*MP*). The earthenware pipe (*DQ*) had been found, together with the doorway ( $\delta \gamma$ ), which led to the belief that here was the entrance to a large tomb. No object of value had been discovered. Some fragments of a highly colored tiling, which could have formed part of an ornamental facing or cornice, and some fragments of Megarian ware with figures in relief, had been found along the wall near the southeast corner, but the workmen could not give the exact place of their discovery, except that it was near the cistern.

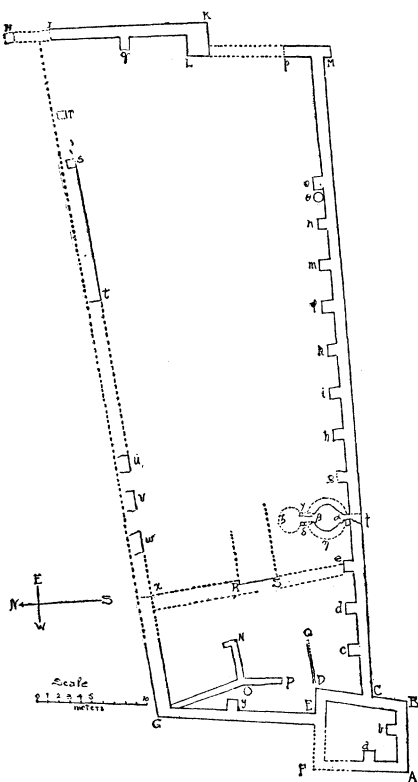


FIG. 22.

On Friday I began work at three points. On the top of the mound a short distance back of the doorway (at  $\delta$ ), two men

were employed to dig into the supposed tomb. At the top were found traces of a late wall of small stones mixed with thin slabs of brick and laid in mortar, but not squared or carefully worked, and, below these, some larger stones, also rough. Near the surface, but at varying depths, were found two or three slightly rounded pieces of stone, such as might have formed part of a well-curb, but unfortunately the remains were not sufficient to determine this point. Below this wall was a thin layer of very soft yellow poros, and below this a thin layer of pinkish sand, lime, and small stones. Just above this stratum were found a few small fragments of a reddish stucco. As all these remains were near the surface, and as there are other remains of late walls near this point (*R S*), it seems probable that they are connected with some very much later building, probably a Byzantine church. Below this layer of sand came a succession of large rough stones, mixed with earth, but certainly no part of a wall. Here nothing was found except a few fragments of clay tiles, without stamps, and a small piece of black ribbed pottery. On reaching the level of the doorway and clearing out completely the earth on that side of the pit, an arch was found above the doorway, composed of regularly laid slabs of stone and tiles. In the earth that was thus cleared away were found two small bronze disks, each pierced at the rim. Both were very much defaced with rust, but one seemed to have on it a Byzantine device. From their general appearance and size, I believe them to be Byzantine medals or tokens, to be worn as amulets. The virgin soil was reached just below the level of the door-posts. Pieces of tile were found to have been wedged in around the posts. At the same time four men were cutting a cross-trench (*e x*) through the mound to the west of the doorway, but this work yielded nothing of interest. Near the surface (*R*) a number of coarse tiles were found, and a stone shaped like a boat, but not hollowed out. The dimensions were: length on top 0.47 m., width 0.17 m., length along keel 0.56 m., and girth at the center 0.26 m. There are a number of similar stones from Selinus in the Museum at Palermo, and with them flat slabs, slightly turned up at the edges. They seem to have been used for rubbing fine grain, instead of grinding it. In the southern

part of the trench (*SE*), near the surface, were found two small and perfectly plain vases. So far as I am able to judge, they belong to a very late, possibly Christian period. Somewhat deeper, near the Byzantine wall (*S*), were found a human skull and other bones, but no trace of a coffin or a regular tomb, nor were any ornaments found with the body.

The other four men were employed in tracing the wall along the north side and at the east end, where it passes over the edge of the mound and not around the foot as is the case on the other three sides. Along the eastern wall several late graves were uncovered, the bodies buried close to the surface with no trace of a coffin, and apparently no enclosing slabs of stone. In some places the wall has been partly removed to make room for these graves.

On Saturday the course of the wall at the east end was further traced, but the bulk of the time and labor was spent at the west end, where a complex of walls was laid bare. I also endeavored to trace further the pipe (*DQ*), but did not get deep enough into the mound to find it again, toward the east. Its object is not very clear, as it certainly was not carried through the wall (*D*), and there seems no other exit possible. During these excavations several more graves were discovered, especially at the corner *F*, where the wall has been destroyed to make room for them; two similar graves were found near *o*, and in one of these a bracelet of bronze with small bronze disks strung upon it. A few bronze rings and pins were in these graves, but all much rusted and apparently entirely without ornament. As nothing seemed likely to be gained by excavating for two or three days longer, the work was suspended for the season on April 29.

The results of the six days of work were as follows:

A wall has been traced entirely around the hillock, forming an irregular quadrangular enclosure having its major axis from east to west, and broader at the east end than at the west. At the southwest corner is a projecting quadrangle, and the eastern wall is somewhat irregular, suggesting a similar projection at the northeast corner, as it seems to continue beyond the point of intersection with the northern wall.

Very little of the northern wall is preserved near the surface, although it is possible that deep digging would show

that the foundations still exist. The wall has been destroyed by the inhabitants of Koutzopodi, and the owner of the field helped us in finding the traces that still exist by pointing out the places from which he had removed large stones. Single blocks ( $r$ ,  $u$ ,  $v$ ,  $w$ ) and a fairly well preserved piece, 12.92 m. long ( $s\ t$ ) were sufficient to determine the direction of the wall and its probable intersection with the eastern wall ( $I$ ). At the northwest corner the wall is preserved. The measurements give a probable length of 61.38 m., breadth of 1.20 m., and direction  $81^\circ$  east of north. The eastern wall perhaps begins with a block of poros ( $H$ ) in the field, 2.65 m. from the intersection of the northern wall ( $I$ ), but it is distinctly preserved from this latter point for a distance of 10.45 m. in a direction due south ( $I\ K$ ); the breadth is 1.10 m. Near the middle of this piece is a block of poros ( $q$ ) on the inside. It is in contact with the wall, but not built into it, and does not show any certain evidence of being the upper stone of a buttress. At  $K$  the wall turns sharply west for 3 m., and has a width of 2 m. ( $K\ L$ ). From this point there is no trace of a wall near the surface for 6.70 m., but it was found again and traced to the corner ( $P\ M$ ), a distance of 2.33 m.; the breadth was 1.06 m.; the course  $2^\circ$  east of north. The southern wall is the best preserved and the most fully excavated. It has a length ( $C\ M$ ) of 55.30 m., a breadth of 0.97 m. (at  $g$ ), and a direction of  $87^\circ$  east of north. The material is a yellow poros of good quality. The wall is strengthened on the inside by eleven buttresses having an average thickness of 0.99 m., and a depth of 0.94 m. The eastern end of this wall has been merely traced on the surface, and it is possible that two more buttresses may have existed in this interval, but I found no sign of them. At the point where the fourth buttress should come ( $f$ ) the wall is broken through, though a trace of the buttress remains, and opposite this point is a peculiar doorway ( $\beta$ ).

The space between the sixth and seventh buttresses ( $i\ k$ ) has been completely excavated, and at this point the whole structure of the wall is clear. It has a depth of 2.66 m., and is laid in seven courses 0.38 m. high, alternately stringers and headers. The stringers are 0.92 m. long, and the headers 0.46 m. The stringer courses are so laid that the vertical

joints are in line, while the headers are carefully placed so that two joints shall fall over every stringer, but not in the same vertical line as the joints in the other two header courses. Though the wall has every appearance of careful work, the stones are not accurately smoothed and jointed, and were evidently intended to be concealed by earth. The eastern buttress (*k*) has the same depth as the wall, but the western (*i*) is two courses shallower; it is 1.90 m. deep.

Just west of the easternmost buttress (*o*) is a small but deep cistern (*θ*), which has been excavated to a depth of 6.45 m. It has a diameter at the top of 0.87 m., and is lined with a hard light cement or stucco. The upper edge is broken so that it is impossible to tell at what level the original curb was placed. The western wall (*G E*) has a length of 11.65 m., a breadth of 1 m., and a direction 3° east of north. At a distance of 6.80 m. from the southern end (*E*) is a buttress (*y*) 0.95 m. broad, and 1.01 m. deep. The southwest corner is occupied by the quadrangle already referred to, which is well preserved except the northwest corner, where the upper courses have been destroyed by late graves. On the north (*D F*) it has a preserved length (*D E*) of 3.22 m., a breadth of 0.95 m., and a direction 81° west of north. On the east (*B D*) the length is 7.14 m., the breadth 1.05 m., and the direction 9° east of north. On the south (*A B*) the length is 4.48 m., the breadth 0.95 m., and the direction 89° east of north. The buttress (*b*) is 1.21 m. from the eastern end, 0.97 m. broad, and 0.91 m. deep. On the west the preserved length (*A F*) is 4.59 m., breadth 0.90 m., and direction 3° east of north. The buttress (*a*) is 2.09 m. from the southern end, 1.00 m. broad, and 0.93 m. deep.

At the northwest corner is a piece of very carefully laid wall (*G O*), in my opinion the best piece that we have uncovered. It is 5.70 m. long, 0.66 m. broad, and its course is 19° west of north. At *O* it changes direction, and extends for 3.22 m. in a line 2° west of north, and then suddenly stops (*P*). From *O* starts also a cross-wall (*O N*), 3.30 m. long, 0.56 m. thick, and running 79° east of north; it terminates in a corner toward the north.

The earthenware pipe (*d q*) has a length of 4.27 m., a direction of 81° east of north, and a depth below the top of

the wall at D of 0.80 m. The diameter of the pipe is about 0.14 m., and the style seemed to me very like that of the pipes in the Roman conduits at the foot of the Pnyx in Athens.

It remains to describe the only structure discovered within the enclosing wall. On the south side, at the point where the fourth buttress should be ( $f$ ), the upper course of the wall and a part of the buttress have been cut away, and inside there is a plainly marked circle, having a diameter of 3.41 m. measured from the inner edge of the wall to the northern side ( $f \beta$ ). This circle is not marked by a wall, but is distinguished by a bottom of sand and a small mixture of black carbonaceous matter. At  $\beta$  is an opening 1.05 m. high, and having a depth on the west ( $\beta \delta$ ) of 0.89 m., and on the east ( $\beta \gamma$ ) of 1.18 m. This difference in depth is due to an irregularity at the outer end of the tunnel. Inside are two door-posts ( $\delta \gamma$ ) 0.30 m. thick, 0.70 m. high, and 0.50 m. apart, and upon them rests a lintel 0.75 m. long, and 0.20 m. high. There is no trace of a sill, or of anything in the nature of a door or shutter. Above this doorway is an arch 1.80 m. from the ground and 0.90 m. from the lintel, having a span of 0.92 m. and a height of 0.32 m., composed of thin slabs of stone and brick. The bottom of the excavation at this point is 2.70 m. from the upper surface of the mound.

In the present state of the excavations, no certain explanation can be given as to the nature of the mound and its enclosing wall. It seems to me probable that we have here a building in connection with some extensive fountain or water-works. Both south and west of the mound lie large cisterns, that to the west still containing water, and the presence of the pipe is proof that there was water inside the wall. If this is correct, the doorway is an opening giving access to a reservoir or allowing the water to pour out into a basin before it. I noticed a very similar arrangement at an old spring on the slope of Parnassus, at the foot of the hill on which is the Corycian cave. There a flight of several steps leads down to a low doorway through which the water is reached. The character of the enclosing wall does not suggest an early date, and the fact that no fragments of pottery earlier than the moulded Megarian ware were found,



makes it not improbable that the whole structure is not earlier than the latter part of the third century B. C. At a much later date the top of the mound seems to have been used for a Byzantine church, which became the centre of a cemetery. Further than this in the interpretation of the results of the excavations, I do not dare to go. If the excavations are continued, it is possible that more definite clues can be found by following up the earthenware pipe and the inner walls at the western end, and by deeper digging along the north and east sides and the southeast corner. Evidently all the stones on the surface have been removed by the Greeks of the neighboring villages, but in view of the depth of the existing foundations, there must be enough left underground to throw more definite light on the nature of the mound.

JAMES M. PATON.

I agree with the conclusions formed by Mr. Paton. To arrive at more definite results, much more extensive operations would have to be begun. Considering the work we have before us at the Heræum, it will not be worth our while to do this for the present.

CHARLES WALDSTEIN.